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King introduces bill barring illegal aliens from obtaining Driver's Licenses *King calls Spitzer's retreat "a great day for New York"*

Washington, D.C. (Thursday, November 15, 2007)—U.S. Rep. Peter T. King (R-NY), Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, introduced H.R. 4176 last night, a bill prohibiting states from issuing drivers licenses and other forms of valid identification to illegal aliens. The bipartisan bill had 154 original cosponsors.

"We must remember that this debate is much larger than road safety and insurance rates," King said. "Make no mistake, terrorists fully understand how to exploit the loopholes in our immigration and identification laws. For a would-be terrorist, valid identification is essential. Birth certificates, green cards, and especially Driver's Licenses are sought by terrorists as a means for establishing a foothold within the United States. Granting valid, state-issued IDs to people here illegally would be a dire security mistake."

As further evidence, King cited a 2005 report by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) that said: "Of the 94 known foreign-born terrorists who operated in the United States between 1993 and 2004, two-thirds of them committed immigration fraud prior to or as part of their terrorist activities."

"New Yorkers, more than anyone else, understand the dire consequences of granting State-backed IDs to those who should not have them," King continued. "After all, the Sept. 11th hijackers obtained a total of 28 state-issued IDs despite the fact that most of them were here illegally. At least six of the terrorists used those IDs to board the planes that fateful morning. We cannot ignore the lessons we learned six years ago."

During a press conference yesterday, King hailed New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's announcement that he will abandon plans to issue New York State Driver's Licenses to illegal immigrants.

"This is a total defeat for Governor Spitzer and the special interests who want to legitimize illegal immigrants in this country," King said. "The outcry against his plan was almost unprecedented; we saw Democratic Presidential candidates abandoning Spitzer in the last debate, the people of New York talked about abandoning Spitzer at the polls, and Congress is now moving

to block such plans nationwide. That's what happens when you propose bad policy that will weaken our country's security."

"This was a bad day for Eliot Spitzer, but a great day for New York," King said.

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